

**REMARKS**

Claims 7, 9-11 and 13-26 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 7 and 9 are amended, and claims 13-26 are added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the disclosure is objected to as allegedly adding new matter to paragraphs [0027]-[0033] and [0035]-[0041]. Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion especially as paragraphs [0035]-[0041] simply reformat what is set forth on page 8, line 20 through page 11, paragraph [050] of the original English-language translation.

In addition, new paragraphs [0027]-[0033] reformat what is set forth in original paragraphs [026]-[039] from the English-language specification, with the exception that the equations inadvertently missing from English-language translation have been inserted. The equations are easily seen from the priority document which were received by the International Bureau and transmitted to the U.S. Receiving Office for the Examiner's review.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested. Claims 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Rumswinkel (DE 1143578). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 7 is directed to a linear drive unit comprising a yoke body having an exciter winding providing a magnetic field, a magnetic armature part which is set in linear oscillating motion about a center position in an axial direction by the magnetic field of the winding, the center position being the position the armature part adopts when oscillating between its maximum lateral deflection positions, wherein a center of the armature is aligned with a center of the yoke body in the center position, and a spring having a fixed end clamped in a fixed manner with respect to the yoke body and an oscillating end coupled to the armature part at a point of application and acting on the armature part in the direction of motion, wherein in the center position of the armature part, the point of application of the spring on the armature part being displaced axially by a predetermined distance in relation to its clamping position, and wherein the spring is

configured as a leaf spring tensioned transverse to the direction of movement of the armature part.

Advantages associated with the claimed structure include lower electrical losses, higher efficiency and the fact that the armature movement is easier to control and regulate. In addition, starter properties of the drive unit are thus improved. See paragraph [009] of the English-language translation of the application.

By contrast, Rumswinkel does not teach or suggest that a center of the armature is aligned with the center of the yoke body in the center position, and that the center position is the position in which the armature part adopts when oscillating between the maximum lateral deflection positions. Instead, Rumswinkel teaches an oscillating armature system for a dry shaving device in which a center of the armature is not aligned with the center of the yoke body and the center position. As shown clearly in Figures 1, 2 and 3, the armature part is shown in its rest position. In Rumswinkel, the maximum amplitude of the left hand side of Figures 1-3 coincides with the center of the stator 1, whereas the armature 2 extends well past the poles of stator 1 when in the maximum deflection position to the right. Thus, the armature does not oscillate from a center position (where the center of the armature is aligned with the center of the yoke) when oscillating between its maximum lateral deflection positions, as set forth in claim 7.

In addition, Rumswinkel does not teach or suggest that the spring is configured as a leaf spring tensioned transverse to the direction of movement of the armature part. There is no teaching or disclosure that the springs 4 are tensioned transverse to the movement of the armature part in Rumswinkel, and nor has the Examiner pointed to any such disclosure.

In addition, Rumswinkel does not teach or suggest a plurality of springs disposed on each side of the center position as set forth in claim 9. Rather, Rumswinkel appears to show only a single spring positioned on each side of the center position.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Rumswinkel. Claim 11 depends from claim 7, and is patentable by virtue of that dependency.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Zabar (U.S. Patent No. 6,323,568) in view of Rumswinkel. This rejection is respectfully traversed at least for the reason that claim 10 depends from claim 7, and is patentable by virtue of that dependency.

In addition, the Examiner has not relied upon the teachings of Zabar to reject claim 7, from which claim 10 depends. In other words, it appears that the Examiner would be required to rejection claims 7 and 10 based on the combination of Zabar in view of Rumswinkel. In any event, claim 10 depends from claim 7, and is patentable by virtue of that dependency.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

New claims 13-26 are presented for the Examiner's consideration. In regard to independent claim 13, Rumswinkel does not disclose that the center position is the position the center of the armature adopts when aligned with the center of the yoke body in which the armature body may symmetrically oscillate between its maximum lateral deflection positions. In regard to independent claim 20, Rumswinkel does not teach or suggest that the spring is configured to be tensioned transverse to the direction of movement of the armature part.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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